

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-15 were pending. Applicants cancel claim 2.

Claims 1, 3-5, 7, 9, 10 and 13 were rejected under 35 U. S. C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Wald (USPN 6,655,475). Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitation of claim 2, that the container is a meshed-or mesh-like basket container. Amended claim 1 is not anticipated by Wald, and the dependent claims are patentable over Wald because the independent claim is patentable over Wald.

Claims 1, 3-5 and 7-10 were rejected under 35 U. S. C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bruce (USPN 4,846,279). Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitation of claim 2, that the container is a meshed-or mesh-like basket container. Amended claim 1 is not anticipated by Bruce, and the dependent claims are patentable over Bruce because the independent claim is patentable over Bruce.

Claims 2 and 10-12 were rejected under 35 U. S. C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wald or Bruce, either in view of Johnson. Claim 2 has been canceled, and the limitation of claim 2 has been incorporated in claim 1. Claim 1 has been amended further to show that the container is re-usable or re-fillable; support is found in paragraphs [0009] and [0018]. Regarding amended claim 1, Wald teaches an at least partially soluble container that works because of that solubility and clearly could not be re-used. Although not explicitly stated, Applicants' container is clearly insoluble since it may be retrieved and re-used or may be re-filled in place. Claim 1 has been amended further to add the limitation that the chemical is in a solid slow-release form. Support is found in paragraphs [0020] and [0023]. Bruce teaches a method of delivering fluids to wells by placing the fluid in a bladder and then forcing the fluid out of the bladder through a capillary tube to control the rate. Slow release, if any, is mechanical, not chemical. The container of Johnson is open only at the upper end and the produced fluids are gradually released from the top end and fluid cannot flow through the container. Furthermore,

Johnson's container was designed to work only in the presence of a corrosive fluid that slowly dissolves the container (column 2, lines 42-54) so Johnson's container is not reusable or re-fillable. There is no suggestion, teaching or motivation in Johnson to modify the containers of Bruce or Wald to make the current invention. Even if one did attach a mesh screen to the container of Bruce or Wald, one would not obtain the present invention.

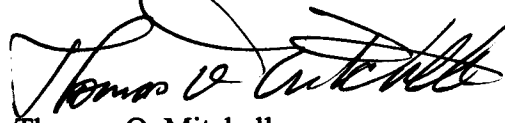
Claims 4, 6, 7, 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U. S. C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Burkhardt in view of Bruce. Both Burkhardt and Bruce teach devices for releasing liquids. The present invention in amended claim 1 employs a solid slow-release chemical that is released into production fluid that may flow through the basket that contains it. The chemical to be released in Burkhardt is a liquid, and the device is designed to release small amounts of the liquid by displacement of the liquid in the container by produced connate water. Produced connate water cannot flow through the container of Burkhardt because the container has an oil-wet permeable membrane as its outlet. Bruce teaches a method of delivering fluids to wells by placing the fluid in a bladder and then forcing the fluid out of the bladder through a capillary tube to control the rate. Slow release, if any, is mechanical, not chemical. There is no suggestion, teaching or motivation in Bruce or Burkhardt to modify the devices of Burkhardt or Bruce to make the current invention. Even if one did use Bruce's canister in Burkhardt's method, one would not obtain the present invention.

Claims 2 and 10-12 were rejected under 35 U. S. C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moradi in view of Bruce. Moradi teaches encapsulated chemicals for use in oilfield applications. Bruce teaches a method of delivering fluids to wells by placing the fluid in a bladder and then forcing the fluid out of the bladder through a capillary tube to control the rate. There is no suggestion, teaching or motivation in Bruce or Moradi to combine the device of Bruce and the chemicals of Moradi to make the current invention. The method of Bruce would not work with the chemicals of Moradi (or with the solid chemicals of the present invention).

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional required fee, or credit any excess fee paid, to Deposit Account 04-1579 (56.0719).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas O. Mitchell", written over a horizontal line.

Thomas O. Mitchell
Agent for Applicants
Reg. No. 47,800

Date: Sept. 28, 2006
Schlumberger Technology Corporation
110 Schlumberger Drive, MD-1
Sugar Land, Texas 77478
Ph: (281) 285-4490
Fax: (281) 285-8569